

GRAND MARSHAL

MAJOR GENERAL MELVIN G. SPIESE

**DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL, I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE;
AND COMMANDING GENERAL, 1ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE**



Major General Spiese was commissioned via the NROTC program after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in May of 1976.

After The Basic School, Major General Spiese was assigned to 3d Battalion, 4th Marines as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer with Company L, and served on the battalion staff. Upon return to CONUS, Major General Spiese was assigned to Marine Barracks, Naval Weapons Station, Concord, CA. In May of 1981 he was assigned to 3d Battalion, 9th Marines as the Commanding Officer of Company I and Battalion S-4. In May 1983 he was transferred to the NROTC Unit, Illinois Institute of Technology as the Marine Officer Instructor.

Leaving Illinois in June 1986, Major General Spiese was posted to Headquarters Marine Corps, serving as the Head of Regular Officer Procurement. Following his tour at Headquarters, he attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College, graduating in May of 1990. After graduation, Major General Spiese was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan and was assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12 as the Assistant Operations Officer and Ground Combat Liaison.

Major General Spiese was assigned to 6th Marines in July of 1991 as the Executive Officer of 3d Battalion, then Regiment S-3. He assumed command of 2d Force Reconnaissance Company in December 1993. Upon relinquishing command in July 1995, Major General Spiese was reassigned to U.S. Special Operations Command, serving as a Policy Officer dealing with Counter Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Marine Corps matters. Upon his departure from USSOCOM, Major General Spiese attended Top Level School at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies as a Fellow in the Advanced Operational Arts Studies program. He remained a second year serving as a seminar leader for the Advanced Military Studies Program, a second year program for majors attending the Army Command and General Staff College.

Major General Spiese was assigned to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in June of 1999 as the Director, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. He assumed command of the School of Infantry (East) in June of 2001, and was assigned as the Director, Expeditionary Warfare School upon relinquishing command in July of 2003. In March of 2005, Major General Spiese assumed the duties of Commanding General Training Command, Deputy Commanding General Training and Education Command.

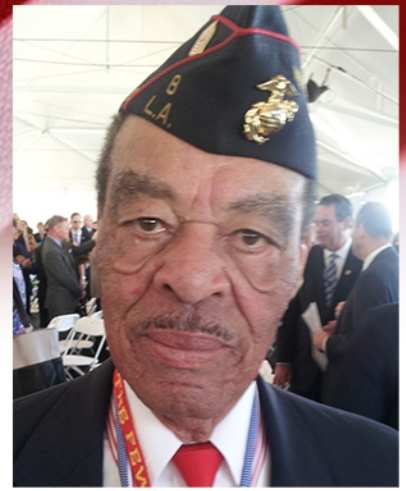
Major General Spiese transferred to U.S. European Command and served as the Deputy Director for Strategy, Policy and Assessments, in October 2005. He assumed Command of Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, CA, in July 2007. He commanded Training and Education Command in Quantico, VA, from May 2008 to August 2010.

His current assignment, as of September 2010, is Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Major General Spiese has been awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal. He is a Military Freefall Parachutist and Marine Combatant Diver. Major General Spiese has earned a Masters of Science degree from the University of Southern California, and a Masters of Military Arts and Science degree from the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies.

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

MGYSGT ROBERT D. REID (RETIRED)
UNITED STATE MARINE CORPS



MGYSGT Reid was born on 25 February 1930 in Cambridge Massachusetts. In July 1948 he enlisted the United State Marine Corps and underwent basic training at Camp Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As one of the first African Americans to join the Marine Corps from 1942-1949. Montford Point is now known as Camp Johnson, it was renamed after the acclaimed SgtMaj Gilbert H. "Hashmark Johnson.

Throughout MGYSgt Reid's career spending twenty-six and a half years, he served in numerous clime and places, and functioned in a verity of billets. MGYSgt Reid served in the Fifth Service Depot in Guam, the First Marine Brigade, Korea, Marine Corps Supply Depot, Barstow California, and Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay. Hawaii, 3rd Marine Air Wing, Marine Corps El Toro, California, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, Marine Aircraft Group Twelve, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, and Marine Air Field, Santa Ana, California.

MGYSgt Reid's decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation with one star, Navy Unit Commendation with one star, Good Conduct with one silver star and two bronze stars, National Defense Medal with on star, Korean Service Medal with three stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, United Nation Service Citation and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

MGYSgt Reid retired from the Marine Corps in June of 1974 while serving his last tour of duty at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point North Carolina. He is the Past President & Vice President of the Los Angeles Chapter #8 of the Montford Point Marine Association Inc. MGYSgt Reid and a group of dedicated retired and former Marines are instrumental in communicating their Legacy, History and profound impact on the United States Marine Corps. MGYSgt Reid received many of awards for his leadership was inducted into the Montford Point Marine Association Inc. Hall of Fame in 2010 for his dedicated service in raising the awareness of the contribution of African American in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Reid received the Congressional Gold Medal from the Congress of the United States on June 27, 2012 in Washington D.C.



HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

CAPTAIN EDWARD Q. HICKS (RETIRED)
UNITED STATE MARINE CORPS



Captain Hicks was born on 27 April 1930 in Philadelphia Penna. He graduated from Haddonfield Memorial High School in 1948, and enlisted the United State Marine Corps, then underwent basic training at Camp Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As one of the first African Americans to join the Marine Corps from 1942-1949. Montford Point is now known as Camp Johnson, it was renamed after the acclaimed SgtMaj Gilbert H. "Hashmark Johnson in 1974.

Throughout Capt. Hicks's career spending twenty-four years, he served in numerous clime and places, and functioned in a verity of billets. Capt Hicks served on the Marine Track/Football Team with the Fifth Service Depot in Guam, Marianas Islands, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton California and Deployed to Korea with 1st Marine Division, Quantico Virginia, MCSS Barstow California, MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, as a Marine Instructor for Marine Air Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve at Chavez-Ravine, California, MCAS El Toro California, MCAS Iwakuni Japan, NAS Willow Grove, Penna, Commissioned to 2nt Lt. in July 1966, served in Chu Lai, Republic of South Vietnam, MCAS New River, North Carolina, and MCAS Futema Okinawa.

Capt Hicks's decorations include the Bronze Start with Combat "V" Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation with two stars, Good Conduct Medal 5th award, National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal with six stars, Vietnam Service Medal with Two starts, Korean President Unit Citations with Cluster and Army Occupation Ribbon.

Captain Hicks retired from the Marine Corps in August of 1972 he went on to attend University of North Carolina at Wilmington, receiving a BA Degree from East Carolina Graduate School in 1975. He is the Recording Secretary of the Los Angeles Chapter #8 of the Montford Point Marine Association Inc. Capt Hicks and a group of dedicated retired and former Marines are instrumental in communicating their Legacy, History and profound impact on the United States Marine Corps. Capt Hicks is also a member of Marine Corps League, Marine Mustang Association and Disable American Veterans. Mr. Hicks received the Congressional Gold Medal from the Congress of the United States on June 27, 2012 in Washington D.C.



CONCERT BAND



40TH INFANTRY DIVISION BAND CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD STATIONED IN LOS ALAMITOS, CA.

The proud history of the 40th Infantry Division Band began with the organization of the 7th Infantry Battalion, California National Guard Band in 1886 in Los Angeles, California. The Band has been redesignated a number of times:

- in 1940 as the 160th Infantry Band
- in 1943 as the 40th Infantry Division Band
- in 1954 as the 40th Armored Division Band
- in 1968 as the 240th Army Band
- in 1974 as the 40th Infantry Division (Mech) Band, a detachment of the 40th Adjutant General Company.

The 40th Infantry Division (M) Band became a separate unit with the reorganization of the division on 1 August 1985. Service to the country is exemplified in the 40th Division Band's record of Federal service. The Band has experienced four federal activations in its history, including Mexican Border Service in 1916, World War I in 1917, World War II in 1941 (Bismarck Archipelago, Luzon and the Southern Philippines), and Korean Conflict in 1950.

Among the unit's military decorations are the Meritorious Unit Citation for service in Korea, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

The 40th Division Band has performed before Presidents, Governors and numerous celebrities in the community. In addition to the duties of aiding the morale and esprit de corps of the California National Guard, the 40th Division Band actively participates in community programs and in concert with music groups and bands of other branches of the Armed Forces. These programs, including concerts and parades, identify graphically the fact that the 40th Division Band is community oriented and represents the true nature of the National Guard, as citizen soldiers.

The 40th Infantry (M) Division is headquartered in Los Alamitos, California. The 40th's subordinate units are stationed around the Southern California area, as well as Northern California, Arizona, Nevada, Montana and Colorado. The Sunburst Division is represented by the 40th Infantry (M) Division Band. The band is proud to represent one of the best Divisions in the Army, and the men and women who serve in it.

Army Bands have been playing ever since the Revolutionary War. Throughout our long history, thousands of musicians/soldiers have played in just about every setting at home and abroad, in battle and during peace. So whether we are entertaining the soldiers in the field, or our loved ones back home, Army musicians are always ready to do the job.

Army Bands do more than just march in parades, we do much more. We play music of all kinds, from big band, jazz, country, and rock to classical and concert pieces. We have played with some of America's most beloved entertainers, from Bob Hope and Marilyn Monroe, to Jay Leno and Vanessa Williams. Army bands are always on the move. Sometimes playing for a military ceremony in the morning, a concert in the park in the afternoon and a dance later in the evening. So if you are a highly motivated individual, and can play a musical instrument, check out the 40th Infantry Division (M) Band, the "Voice of California."

A close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a diagonal orientation, serving as a background for the title.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HISTORY

CITY OF TORRANCE ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY

The City of Torrance is one of the few cities in the nation designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to host an Armed Forces Day celebration with the Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade as a highlight. The Parade has the distinction of being the nation's longest running military parade sponsored by any city.

2013 marks the 54th Annual City of Torrance Armed Forces Day Celebration, a continuation of Torrance's longest-standing tradition of celebrating the legacy and sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces.

This rich tradition began in 1960; Mayor Al Isen, with the help of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, organized the first parade as a tribute to friends and fellow Americans who had served in the Armed Forces. The parade has grown over the years to become one of America's most eagerly awaited demonstrations of patriotism. The Armed Forces Day Parade has drawn up to 100,000 spectators a year to watch as many as 8,000 parade participants march along the parade route from downtown Torrance to City Hall.

In its early history, the celebration began on a Friday evening with a display of military exhibits coupled with a large fireworks show behind City Hall. On Saturday, a daylong display of military hardware and parade floats, all open for public viewing, follows the parade, which has a history of recognizing military war heroes, such as U.S. General Omar Bradley. A Five Star General of the Army, Omar N. Bradley served as the Honorary Grand Marshal in 1969, and was, at the time, the highest-ranking serviceman in the nation. General Bradley commanded the largest American military force ever to serve under one field commander; a force of more than 1,300,000 troops, during the European campaign in World War II.

The Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade is led by a prologue, which includes the Torrance Mounted Posse. Following the Mounted Posse, the Honorary Grand Marshal travels the parade route in his marked vehicle then takes his place in front of the reviewing stand as the Official Reviewing Officer for the parade.

The remainder of the prologue consists of senior commanders of major military installations, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, State-elected officials, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Torrance and other city and county officials. Community leaders from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and Torrance Jaycees and local high school marching bands complete the prologue section.

Following the prologue in the march are several Divisions, comprised mostly of military color guards, military marching bands, high school marching bands, uniformed troops, military drill teams, units from the National Guard, ROTC and military reserve, military vehicles such as tanks and armored personnel carriers, aerospace satellites and exhibits. When weather permits, military aircraft conduct flyovers of the parade route.

For over 50 years, the City of Torrance has faithfully supported the Armed Forces Day Parade despite periodic anti-war sentiments and economic hard times. In 1979, the parade was almost cancelled due to lack of funds brought about by the passage of Proposition 13 in California. However, the public outcry over canceling the event brought the community together and revived the parade, with the assistance of the Torrance Exchange Club. The Torrance Exchange Club raised funds from the community to allow the celebration to continue. In 2013, this Southern California tradition will be enjoyed once again by the community.

Many of the spectators who first viewed the parade as children in the 1960s and 1970s now bring their own children and grandchildren to the weekend's events. This experience helps instill a respect for country and demonstrates appreciation for the sacrifices the men and women of the armed forces have made to secure our freedoms.



EVENTS LIST

DATES, TIMES & ACTIVITIES

For the 54th Annual Armed Forces Day, the following events will occur in the City during the weekend of **May 17-19, 2013**:

FRIDAY, MAY 17

CONCERT: 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

40th Infantry Division Band California Army National Guard stationed in Los Alamitos, Ca. Free concert at the James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive.

For tickets, contact the Box Office: 310-781-7171. The Box Office will open at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15 and tickets can be picked up for either concert. The tickets are free and are on a first come first served basis. There is a limit of four (4) tickets per adult. Ticket holders must be in their seats 15 minutes prior to show time or the seat will be made available to their patrons.

MILITARY EXHIBITS: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Military exhibits will be on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, and support equipment at the Del Amo Fashion Center. The outdoor exhibits will be in the lower parking lot to the rear (west of) the Lifestyle Wing parking structure.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

PARADE: 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

The 54th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade begins at Crenshaw Boulevard traveling west on Torrance Boulevard and ending at Madrona Avenue. All streets intersecting the parade route will be closed the majority of the day. Torrance's parade is the longest-running Armed Forces Day Parade in the nation. As one of few cities designated by the Department of Defense, the City of Torrance is proud to honor the men and women of our nation's Armed Forces. This year's honored branch is the United States Air Force.

MILITARY EXHIBITS: 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Military exhibits will be on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, and support equipment at the Del Amo Fashion Center. The outdoor exhibits will be in the lower parking lot to the rear (west of) the Lifestyle Wing parking structure. Exhibit will open following the Parade.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

MILITARY EXHIBITS: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Military exhibits will be on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, and support equipment at the Del Amo Fashion Center. The outdoor exhibits will be in the lower parking lot to the rear (west of) the Lifestyle Wing parking structure.



MEDIA ACCESS

CITY OF TORRANCE

54TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION AND PARADE

The City of Torrance Public Information Team will work closely with members of the media who are interested in covering the celebration. We will make every effort to fulfill your needs.

For further information, media representatives should contact:

Sergeant Robert Watt: 310-618-5688 or

Jamie Le, Community Relations Specialist: 310-618-5762

During the celebration, media access includes:

MONDAY, MAY 13 THROUGH SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

Access to parade planners from the Torrance Police Department, Traffic Division regarding planning activities related to the parade.

Access to senior members of the Command Staff of the Torrance Police Department for statements regarding the role of the parade in the City and Police Department.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013

DAY PRIOR TO PARADE DAY

Up-close access to military hardware static displays beginning at 10:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

PARADE DAY

Media van parking available near reviewing stand (parking lot in front of City of Torrance Personnel Office, 3231 Torrance Boulevard) at the Media Information Center.

Access to Media Information Center for press statements by the Public Information Officer.

Team Access to Marshaling Area where media may have access to military equipment and other parade entries.



FACT SHEET

Torrance is one of few cities nationwide sanctioned by the Department of Defense to honor our Armed Forces through an annual Armed Forces Day Parade & Celebration.

Torrance's Armed Forces Day Parade has the distinction of being the nation's longest running military parade sponsored by any city.

Last year's celebration brought approximately 60,000 people to crowd the Parade route, and staff is expecting a similar turnout this year.

The year 2013 marks the 54th year that the City of Torrance has hosted an Armed Forces Day Celebration to honor the nation's military. Torrance's celebration lasts from Friday, May 17, 2013 through Sunday, May 19, 2013.

On Saturday, May 18, 2013, the parade begins at 1:30 p.m. at Crenshaw Boulevard and travels one-mile west on Torrance Boulevard to Madrona Avenue. It ends approximately at 3:30 p.m.

Each year, the City of Torrance identifies one branch of the military - the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard - as the "honored service" of the Armed Forces Day Celebration. A high-ranking member of the honored service is invited to serve as Grand Major General Melvin G. Spiese, Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force; and Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Pendleton, California will be serving as the 2013 Grand Marshal.

This year's celebration honors the United States Marine Corps.

Besides the Parade highlight, the community can enjoy other festivities during the 54th Annual City of Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade & Celebration, including military exhibits and a free concert by a band from the honored branch.

Military exhibits on display, including aircrafts, vehicles, support equipment may be viewed at the north end of the Del Amo Fashion Center at the lower parking lot west side of the parking structure on Friday, May 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 18 from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. (closed during the parade), and on Sunday, May 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

40th Infantry Division Band, California Army National Guard will perform a free concert on May 17 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the James Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive. For tickets, contact the Box Office: 310-781-7171. The Box Office will open at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15 and tickets can be picked up for either concert. The tickets are free and are on a first come first served basis. There is a limit of four (4) tickets per adult. Ticket holders must be in their seats 15 minutes prior to show time or the seat will be made available to their patrons.

The Torrance legacy of the Armed Forces Day celebration began under the leadership of Mayor Isen in 1960 and has grown throughout the years to be considered a Southern California tradition. According to Mayor Isen, the parade was to "increase public respect and understanding for military service and promote civic-military relationships."